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UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 000870

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR CATHERINE VIAL, SYLVIA MOHR, ISABELLE MAELCAMP D'OPSTAELE AND SUSANA GETMAN

REF: BRUSSELS 03985

1. EMBASSY BRATISLAVA WELCOMES COMPLIANCE ATTACHE CATHERINE VIAL, COMPLIANCE ASSISTANT SUSANA GETMAN, EU FUNDING ADVISOR ISABELLE MAELCAMP D'OPSTAELE AND STANDARDS SPECIALIST SYLVIA MOHR AND GRANTS COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 3-6, 2004. THE EMBASSY POINT OF CONTACT FOR YOUR VISIT IS SANFORD OWENS, COMMERCIAL OFFICER. TEL: +420-2-5920-5320 (OFFICE), FAX LINE: +420-2-5920-5333. CELLPHONE NUMBER OF DUTY OFFICER IS +420-903-703-666. RESERVATION HAS BEEN MADE AT THE HOTEL MARROL'S (ADDRESS: TOBRUCKA 4, BRATISLAVA, TEL.+420-2-5778-4600, RES.NO 7323). ROOM CHARGE AT THE HOTEL IS 136 USD WHICH IS WITHIN BRATISLAVA PERDIEM. CS BRATISLAVA WILL COORDINATE CONTRACT DRIVER FOR A SUNDAY EVENING (COST APPROXIMATELY USD 60) PICKUP IN VIENNA AND TRANSPORT TO HOTEL MARROLLS.
2. THE U.S. EMBASSY'S ADDRESS IS HVIEZDOSLAVOVO NAM. 4, 811 02 BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA. TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: +420-2-5443-0861 OR +420-5443-3338.
3. SECURITY CLEARANCES AND BUILDING ACCESS: IF NECESSARY, THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER WILL PROVIDE A TEMPORARY EMBASSY BADGE FOR YOU. HOWEVER A CLEAR TELEGRAPHIC INDICATION OF YOUR SECURITY LEVEL MUST BE PROVIDED FOR UNESCORTED ACCESS INTO ANY MISSION FACILITY.
4. COMPUTER ACCESS TO MISSION FACILITIES: PRIVATELY OWNED LAPTOPS AND PERSONAL COMPUTERS (INCLUDING PALM PILOTS), PERIPHERALS, DISKETTES AND TAPES ARE PROHIBITED IN ALL MISSION FACILITIES. TRAVELERS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (USG) OWNED UNCLASSIFIED LAPTOP OR NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS, PERIPHERALS, DISKETTES AND TAPES MUST RECEIVE RSO/IPO AUTHORIZATION PRIOR TO BEING GRANTED ACCESS TO U.S. MISSION BUILDINGS. USG-OWNED CLASSIFIED COMPUTERS MUST BE SENT TO POST VIA CLASSIFIED DIPLOMATIC POUCHES. CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT MUST BEAR EXTERNAL USG BAR CODES, INVENTORY NUMBERS, AND CLASSIFICATION MARKING COMMENSURATE WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INFORMATION PROCESSED ON THE SYSTEM.
5. SECURITY: POST REMINDS TRAVELLER THAT WE ARE UNDER A HIGH LEVEL THREAT OF POTENTIAL TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. THIS WARNING IS ESPECIALLY APPLICABLE TO THOSE OF US IN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OVERSEAS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE CREDIBLE INDICATIONS THAT EXTREMIST GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE PLANNING ADDITIONAL TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS WORLDWIDE. SUCH ACTIONS MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO SUICIDE OPERATIONS. BECAUSE SECURITY AND SECURITY AWARENESS HAVE BEEN ELEVATED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, THE TERRORISTS MAY TARGET U.S. INTERESTS OVERSEAS. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS MAY BE TARGETED FOR KIDNAPPING OR ASSASSINATION. EMPLOYEES ARE REMINDED TO REMAIN VIGILANT WITH REGARD TO THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY AND TO EXERCISE CAUTION.
6. THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC HAS A +ACI-MEDIUM+ACI- RATE OF CRIME, ALTHOUGH VIOLENT CRIME IS RELATIVELY UNCOMMON. VISITORS ARE URGED TO EXERCISE REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS. IF YOU MUST WALK ALONE AT NIGHT, KEEP TO POPULOUS AND WELL-LIGHTED AREAS. PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR WALLET, PURSE, HANDBAG AND CELLULAR TELEPHONE, AS ALL ARE POPULAR TARGETS OF THE LOCAL THIEVES. THE LOCAL PICKPOCKETS ARE PROFESSIONAL AND MOST ACTIVE DURING THE SUMMER. THEY TEND TO UTILIZE DISTRACTION TECHNIQUES TO CONFUSE THEIR TARGET, PREFERRING LOCATIONS SUCH AS SHOPPING CENTERS, MARKETS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE VICINITY OF THE +ACI-OLD TOWN+ACI-, NEAR MAJOR HOTELS WHERE FOREIGNERS STAY AND TOURIST SITES, AND THE NIGHT TRAINS TO PRAGUE AND WARSAW. POWER STRUGGLES BETWEEN ORGANIZED CRIME ELEMENTS, WHICH CAN BE VIOLENT, OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME. THIS ACTIVITY IS NOT/DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGNERS. THE RATE OF AUTO THEFT, WHICH IS ALSO CONNECTED TO ORGANIZED CRIME, IS VERY HIGH IN BRATISLAVA. UP-MARKET EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN CARS ARE PREFERRED TARGETS. THE USE OF ALARM SYSTEMS OR ANTI-THEFT DEVICES IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.
7. MEDICAL: IF YOU EXPERIENCE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY AFTER WORK HOURS, CONTACT THE EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER AT CELLPHONE 0903-703-666. IF YOU CANNOT REACH THE DUTY OFFICER, THE EMBASSY HAS A CONTRACT WITH AN ENGLISH SPEAKING SLOVAK DOCTOR, DR. CAPOVA, WHO IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY TO PROVIDE CONSULTATIONS AND ARRANGE TREATMENT AT LOCAL HOSPITALS. DR. CAPOVA CAN BE REACHED AT 6252 5068 (HOME) OR AT 0904 637 836 (CELL PHONE). TELL DR. CAPOVA THAT YOU ARE WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY AND REQUIRE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. IF NECESSARY, DIAL 155 TO CONTACT THE CITY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

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